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EDEN calls FROGMAN TALKS

Secret Service chiefs face three demands

CPYRGHT

By CHAPMAN PINCHER

THE case of frogman Lionel Crabb is to be thrashed out at a special session of the Combined Intelligence Committee — Britain's highest security authority — it was revealed last night.

In this secret conclave of the chiefs of M.I.5, the Secret Service and Forces' Intelligence departments the facts of how Crabb died under the Russian warships in Portsmouth harbour will be disclosed in full—probably for the first time.

Purpose of the session is to meet three demands from Sir Anthony Eden which are an essential part of the "disciplinary action" he has taken to prevent any repetition of such an embarrassing situation.

DEMAND No. 1: The experts

must find some way of allowing closer political control by Ministers over Intelligence work without stifling the initiative of agents or spreading secret information too widely.

Defence Minister Sir Walter Monckton, who is responsible for advising the Cabinet on Intelligence matters, knew nothing about the frogman project.

Neither did his special adviser on scientific intelligence, Mr Eric Williams.

A SUPREME BOSS?

DEMAND No. 2: There must be much closer control by Intelligence chiefs over what is happening in their departments.

It seems certain that though Naval Intelligence men were involved in the Crabb venture, the Director of Naval Intelligence was not told about it.

DEMAND No. 3: The system whereby "freelance" agents like Commander Crabb are employed by

Intelligence departments must be reviewed and tightened.

The committee may decide that the only solution will be to follow the United States lead and appoint a highly influential man as overall chief of the Intelligence departments.

The United States has a Central Intelligence Agency, headed by Allen Dulles, brother of Foreign Secretary John Foster Dulles.

Britain's Joint Intelligence Bureau, headed by Sir Kenneth Strong, functions as a central clearing house for Intelligence information, but exercises no control over policy.

An alternative and less drastic move would be to appoint a permanent full-time chief for the Combined Intelligence Committee, with powers to range through the whole Intelligence network.

At present the chairman of the committee is a high-level administrative civil servant who has other jobs to do. He is appointed for a two-year term.

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